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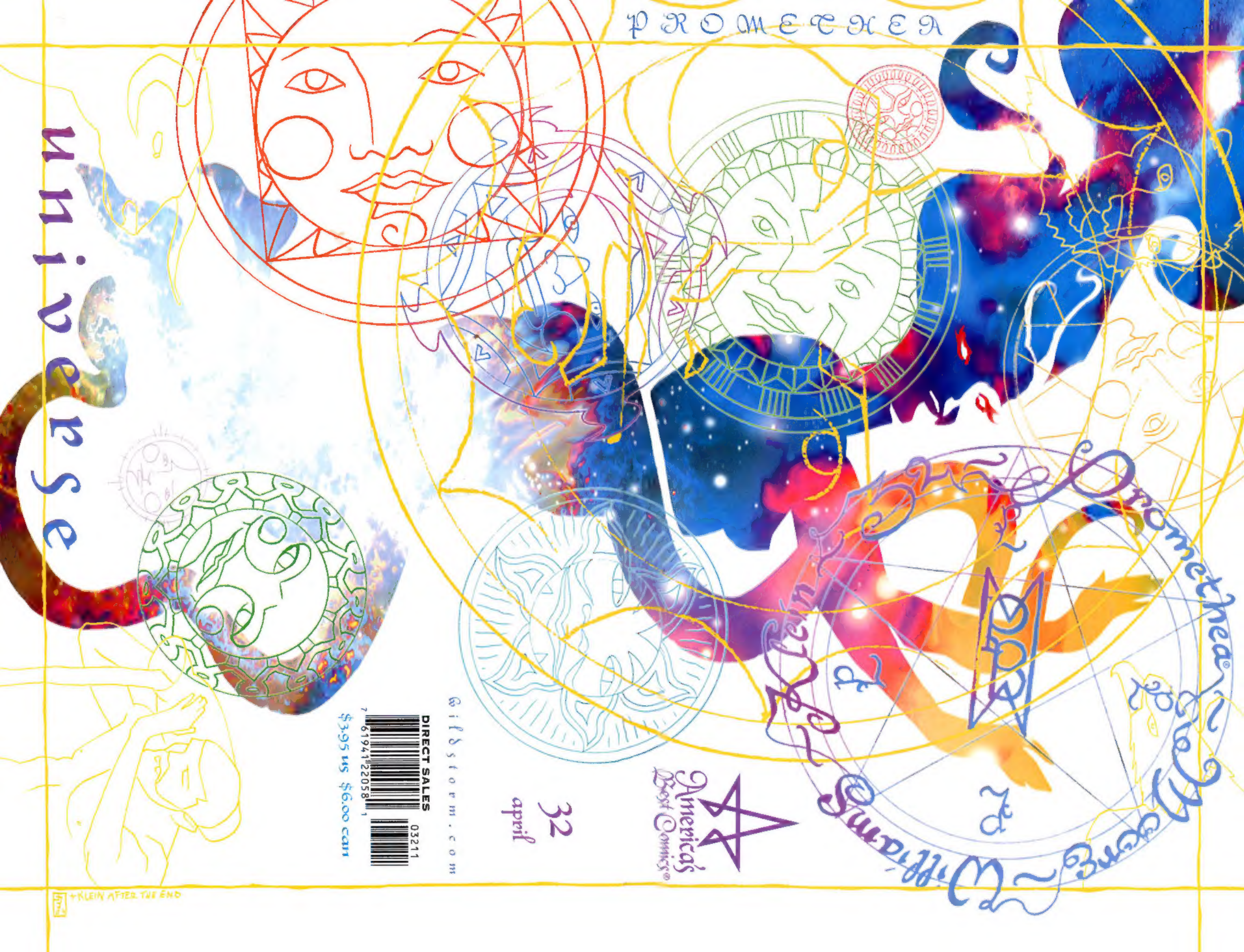
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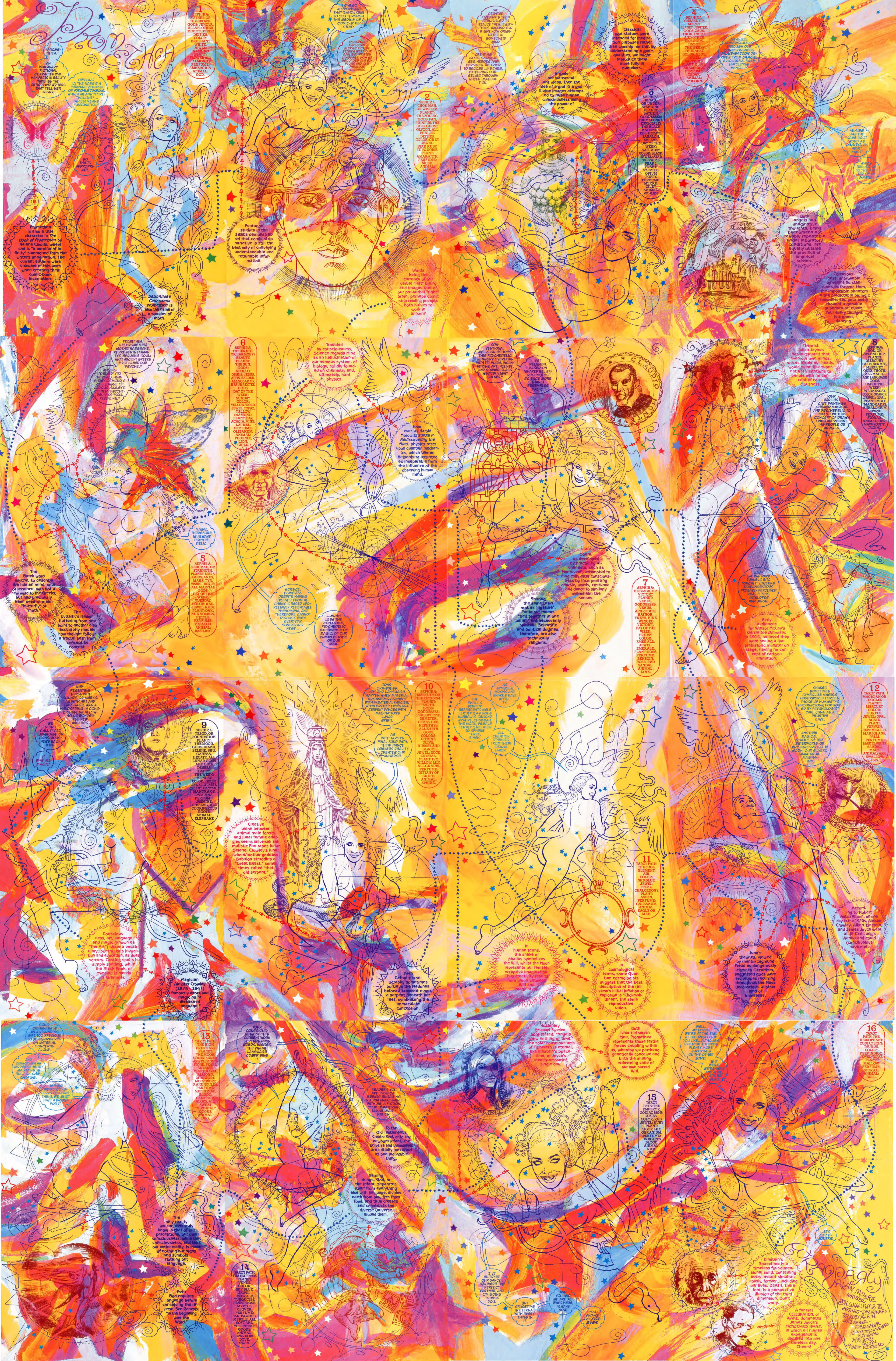
A WORD ABOUT THIS ISSUE.

This final issue of PROMETHEA has several notable differences from previous ones. First off, a number of pages are upside down, we know. Secondly, the story is constructed so you can read it from front to back, yes, even the upside down pages, or it can be "unfolded" into a giant double-sided poster and read in a completely different order. Since this is a comic book that has been cut at the printer we had to cheat a little–you can't actually unfold the book but you can carefully pull it apart and, using the numbers on each page as a guide (it will be four tiers of four pages), tape it all together to form the poster. Additionally, once the poster is completed, you will see two lovely images of Promethea only visible in this form.


CLAUDIO MONTEVERDI 1567 - 1643
WERNER KARL HEISENBERG 1901-1976
CARL GUSTAV JUNG 1875-1961
SOPHIA BANGS, PROMETHEA 1999-2004
A
B
C

Promethea

"PROMETHEA."

AN IMAGINARY FICTIONAL CHARACTER WHO MANIFESTS IN REALITY THROUGH THE ARTISTS AND WRITERS THAT TELL HER STORY.

OBVIOUSLY, THE NAME'S A FEMININE VERSION OF *PROMETHEUS,* WHICH MEANS "FORETHOUGHT"... WHICH MEANS "IMAGINATION."

SO THAT'S APPROPRIATE.

Promethea is also a title character in *The Book of Promethea* by Helene Cixous, where she is "a heroine of infinity" summoned from the writer's imagination. The current authors were unaware of this work when creating their comic-book incarnation.

Saturniidae Callosamia promethea is also the name of a species of moth.

1

SEPHIRA: KETHER OR THE CROWN. GODS: JEHOVA, ALLAH, OTHER MONOTHEISTIC DEITIES. COLOR: BRILLIANT WHITE. JEWEL: DIAMOND. PLANT: FLOWERING ALMOND. PERFUME: AMBERGRIS. ANIMAL: GOD.

IT'S ALSO APPROPRIATE THAT I'M TALKING TO YOU THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF A COMIC-STRIP STORY.

IDEOGRAMS AND HIEROGLYPHIC PICTURE STORIES WERE OUR EARLIEST WRITTEN LANGUAGE, HOW WE RECORDED OUR EXPLOITS AND OUR FABULOUS IMAGININGS.

Pentagon studies in the 1980s demonstrated that comic strip narrative is still the best way of conveying understandable and retainable information.

2

SEPHIRA: CHOKMAH, OR WISDOM. PLANET: THE ZODIAC. GODS: PAN, PRIAPUS, THE HOLY GHOST, GLYCON, ALL PHALLIC DEITIES. COLOR: GREY. JEWEL: STAR RUBY, TURQUOISE. PLANT: AMARANTH. PERFUME: MUSK. ANIMAL: MAN.

Words being the currency of our verbal "left" brain, and images that of our pre-verbal "right" brain, perhaps comic strip reading prompts both halves to work in unison?

WE CREATED FANTASIES THEN STRUGGLED TO REALIZE THEM. EVERYTHING AROUND YOU RIGHT NOW ORIGINATED IN SOMEONE'S MIND.

CREATING GODS, GODDESSES, HEROES AND HEROINES, WE TRIED TO BECOME LIKE THEM, EXTENDING OURSELVES THROUGH SHEER IMAGINATION.

If gods are transcendent ideas, then the idea of a god IS a god. Divine images attempted to raise human consciousness using the power of art.

Classical god-statues were intended for meditation purposes rather than worship, so that by understanding a god's qualities, we might reproduce them more fully in ourselves.

3

SEPHIRA: BINAH, OR UNDERSTANDING. PLANET: SATURN. GODDESSES: THE MADONNA, ESPECIALLY THE BLACK MADONNA, ISIS, HECATE, BABALON, SELENE. DAY OF THE WEEK: SATURDAY. COLOR: BLACK. JEWEL: STAR SAPPHIRE, PEARL. PLANT: CYPRESS, OPIUM POPPY. PERFUME: MYRRH, CIVET. ANIMAL: WOMAN.

4

SEPHIRA: CHESED OR MERCY. PLANET: JUPITER. GODS: ZEUS, THOR, INDRA AND OTHER SKY GODS. DAY OF THE WEEK: THURSDAY. COLOR: BLUE. JEWEL: SAPPHIRE. PLANT: OLIVE, SHAMROCK. PERFUME: CEDAR. ANIMAL: UNICORN.

AN ANGEL SOMERSAULTING THROUGH OUR CONSCIOUSNESS, *IMAGINATION* DERIVES FROM *IMAGE,* A COLORFUL FORM UNFOLDING MENTALLY.

IMAGE HAS THE SAME ROOT WORD AS *IMAGO,* AN ADULT INSECT.

WHICH BRINGS ME TO THE MATTER OF MY *NAME*...

Both angels and imaginative thoughts, being phenomena not reliably repeatable under laboratory conditions, are equally outside the province of empirical science.

Consciousness, unprovable by scientific standards, is forever, then, the impossible phantom in the predictable biologic machine, and your every thought a genuine supernatural event. Your every thought is a ghost, dancing.

PROMETHEA, THE PROMETHEA MOTH'S NAMESAKE, REPRESENTS HUMANITY'S EVOLVING SOUL; WHAT ANCIENT GREEKS FIRST NAMED OUR "PSYCHE."

ADDING "DELOS" (TO REVEAL), HUMPHREY OSMOND, A COLLEAGUE OF ALDOUS HUXLEY'S COINED "PSYCHEDELIC" OR "SOUL REVEALING."

MAGIC, THEREFORE, IS ALWAYS PSYCHEDELIC.

The Greek word *psyche,* to describe the human mind, soul or essence, was not a new word to the Greeks, but had previously been used to mean "butterfly" or "moth."

The butterfly's random fluttering from one point to another also accurately models how thought follows a fractal path from concept to concept.

5

SEPHIRA: GEBURAH, OR STRENGTH. PLANET: MARS. GODS: ARES, MARS, TYR, VISHNU, HORUS, ALL MARTIAL GODS. DAY OF THE WEEK: TUESDAY. COLOR: RED. JEWEL: RUBY. PLANT: OAK, NUX VOMICA, NETTLE. PERFUME: TOBACCO. ANIMAL: BASILISK.

6

SEPHIRA: TIPHERETH, OR HARMONY/BEAUTY. PLANET: THE SUN. GODS: APOLLO, OSIRIS, JESUS, ATTIS, BALDER, ALL SOLAR OR RESURRECTED GODS. DAY OF THE WEEK: SUNDAY. COLOR: YELLOW/GOLD. JEWEL: TOPAZ, YELLOW DIAMOND. PLANT: BAY, ACACIA, VINE, LAUREL. PERFUME: OLIBANUM. ANIMAL: PHOENIX, LION, CHILD.

Troubled by consciousness, Science regards Mind as an hallucination of our nervous system, of biology, solidly founded on chemistry and, ultimately, hard physics.

However, as Harold Morowitz states in *Rediscovering the Mind,* physics rests upon quantum mechanics, which Werner Heisenberg asserted as inseparable from the influence of the observing human mind.

SCIENCE, HOWEVER, DESPITE HAVING EVOLVED FROM ALCHEMY, IS BASED UPON RELIABLY REPEATABLE PHENOMENA, AND THEREFORE CANNOT DISCUSS EVEN EVERYDAY CONSCIOUSNESS...

...MUCH LESS THE EXPLODING, PSYCHEDELIC EXPERIENCE OF MAGIC, OF OUR HUMAN PSYCHE, OF OUR SOUL.

CONVENTIONAL RELIGION ECHOES THIS PSYCHEDELIC SENSORY OVERLOAD WITH ITS MUSIC, INCANTATIONS, ART, INCENSE, AND STAINED GLASS WINDOW "LIGHT SHOWS."

YET RELIGION, BASED ON "SHARED BELIEF," RESEMBLES SCIENCE MORE THAN IT RESEMBLES MAGIC.

Opera, as developed by practicing alchemists, such as Monteverdi, attempted to magically alter consciousness by incorporating music, words, costume and dance to similarly overwhelm the senses.

Sharing the same Latin root as "ligature", "religion" means "tied together in one belief," not necessarily spiritual. Scientific and political dogmas, therefore, are also technically religions.

7

SEPHIRA: NETZACH, OR VICTORY. PLANET: VENUS. GODDESSES: VENUS, APHRODITE, HATHOR, FREYA, NIKE (WINGED VICTORY). DAY OF THE WEEK: FRIDAY. COLOR: EMERALD. JEWEL: EMERALD. PLANT: ROSE. PERFUME: BENZOIN, ROSE, RED SANDAL. ANIMAL: LYNX.

Theorist Julian Jaynes has suggested that even our own minds, voices inside our heads, would seem like supernatural visitations to people with no concept of consciousness.

8

SEPHIRA: HOD, OR SPLENDOUR. PLANET: MERCURY. GODS: HERMES, MERCURY, ODIN, THOTH, ALL MAGIC AND LANGUAGE GODS. DAY OF THE WEEK: WEDNESDAY. COLOR: ORANGE. JEWEL: OPAL. PLANT: MOLY (MANDRAKE), ANHALONIUM LEWINII. PERFUME: STORAX. ANIMAL: HERMAPHRODITE, JACKAL.

OUR EARLIEST CAVE PAINTINGS SEEMED MAGICAL AND PSYCHEDELIC TO PEOPLE WITH NO CONCEPT OF DRAWN LINES REPRESENTING PEOPLE OR ANIMALS.

NAVIGATING DARK TUNNELS INTO TORCHLIT CAVERNS, OUR ANCESTORS PROBABLY PERCEIVED REAL FLYING ANTELOPES AND BISON.

Early audiences for Winsor McCay's *Gertie the Dinosaur,* in 1914, believed they were seeing a live prehistoric monster on stage, having no concept of cartoon animation.

REPRESENTING THINGS WITH SOUNDS OR MARKS, AS WITH ART AND LANGUAGE, WAS A HANDSPRING IN CONSCIOUSNESS ALLOWING US WONDERFUL NEW ABILITIES.

WE DIDN'T CALL IT ART, LANGUAGE OR CONSCIOUSNESS BACK THEN.

IT WAS ALL *MAGIC.*

9

SEPHIRA: YESOD, OR FOUNDATION. PLANET: THE MOON. GODS: DIANA, SELENE, SHU, GANESA, HECATE, ALL LUNAR GODS AND GODDESSES. DAY OF THE WEEK: MONDAY. COLOR: VIOLET. JEWEL: QUARTZ. PLANT: BANYAN, MANDRAKE, DAMIANA. PERFUME: JASMINE, GINSENG, ALL ODORIFEROUS ROOTS. ANIMAL: ELEPHANT.

Consciousness, art, language and magic (known as "The Art") share a vocabulary: poetry uses invocation and evocation, as does sorcery. Casting spells is simply spelling, while the Black Book, or *grimoire,* is merely a Grammar.

Magician Aleister Crowley (1875 - 1947) famously described magic as "a disease of language."

Creative union between animal male forces and lunar female energies seems universal: animalistic Pan rapes lunar Selene; Crowley's lunar whore/mother-goddess Babalon straddles a "Great Beast," sometimes called "that old serpent."

CONSCIOUSNESS, ART AND LANGUAGE HAPPEN WHEN MATERIAL ORGANISMS CONNECT WITH IMMATERIAL FANCIES; WHEN EARTHLY LIFE'S DNA SERPENT DANCES WITH IMAGINATION'S LUNAR SPIRIT.

AS WITH TAROT'S FINAL 32ND PATH, THEIR DANCE CREATES REALITY, CREATES OUR UNIVERSE.

10

SEPHIRA: MALKUTH, OR THE KINGDOM. PLANET: EARTH. GODS/GODDESSES: PERSEPHONE, DEMETER, CERES, GEB, NEPHTHYS, ALL EARTH GODS. COLORS: CITRINE, OLIVE, RUSSET AND BLACK. JEWEL: ROCK CRYSTAL. PLANT: IVY, WILLOW, LILY, ALL GRAINS. PERFUME: DITTANY OF CRETE. ANIMAL: SPHINX.

Even Catholic iconography sometimes portrays the Madonna before a crescent moon, a serpent beneath her feet, symbolizing the immaculate conception.

AS SYMBOLS, MOONS AND SNAKES HAVE AFFINITY.

THE PHALLIC SERPENT REPRESENTS MALE FERTILITY, AS DOES KABBALA'S SECOND SPHERE, CHOKMAH. THE MOON, FEMALE FERTILITY, RELATES TO SPHERE THREE, BINAH.

ALL CREATION SPRINGS FROM THEIR SEXUAL UNION.

11

TAROT PATH: THE FOOL. ELEMENT: AIR. COLOR: SKY-BLUE. JEWEL: TOPAZ, CHALCEDONY. PLANT: ASPEN. PERFUME: GALBANUM. ANIMAL: EAGLE OR MAN.

In human terms, the snake or phallus symbolizes the Will, whilst the Moon represents our female, receptive imagination. Thus creativity results from union between Will and Imagination.

In cosmological terms, some Quantum cosmologists suggest that the best description of the Universe's initial inflation or explosion is "Chokmah-Binah", the same reproductive union.

SNAKES SOMETIMES SYMBOLIZE MAGIC'S UNDERWORLD FORCES, THOSE OF HUMANITY'S UNCONSCIOUS, PORTRAYED BY PSYCHOLOGIST CARL JUNG AS A PRIMITIVE CAVE.

ANOTHER MAGICAL SYMBOL OF THE UNDERWORLD OR UNCONSCIOUS IS THE MOON; OUR SILVERY, IMMATERIAL IMAGINATION.

12

TAROT PATH: MAGICIAN OR JUGGLER. PLANET: MERCURY. COLOR: PURPLE. JEWEL: OPAL, AGATE. PLANT: VERVAIN, HERB MERCURY, MARJOLANE, PALM. PERFUME: MASTIC, WHITE SANDAL, MACE. ANIMAL: APE, SWALLOW, IBIS.

According to Robert Anton Wilson, on one day in the 1920s, Aleister Crowley, Albert Einstein, and James Joyce were all in Carl Jung's Vienna and could (conceivably) have met.

Jung's theories, viewed by mentor Sigmund Freud as dangerously close to Occultism, suggested gods were archetypes recurring throughout the Mass Unconscious, another kind of Immateria.

CONSCIOUSNESS IS AN ASTOUNDING GIFT, TOO PRECIOUS TO BE SQUANDERED ON MATERIAL CONCERNS ALONE.

AND CONSCIOUSNESS, MODERN THEORY MAINTAINS, IS BUILT ON *LANGUAGE.*

BEFORE WE'RE CONSCIOUS OF SOMETHING, WE MUST HAVE A *WORD* FOR IT.

13

TAROT PATH: THE HIGH PRIESTESS. PLANET: THE MOON. COLOR: SILVER. JEWEL: MOONSTONE, PEARL, CRYSTAL. PLANT: HAZEL, ALMOND, MUGWORT, MOONWORT, RANUNCULUS. PERFUME: MENSTRUAL BLOOD, CAMPHOR, ALOES, ALL SWEET "VIRGINAL" ODORS. ANIMAL: DOG.

The only reality we can ever truly know is that of our perceptions, our own consciousness, while that consciousness, and thus our entire reality, is made of nothing but signs and symbols. Nothing but language.

Even God requires language before conceiving the Universe. See Genesis: "In the beginning was the Word."

YOUR CONSCIOUSNESS OF THIS CURRENT WORK DEPENDS UPON WORDS, IMAGES, THE VISUAL LANGUAGE COMPRISING IT.

AS READERS, YOU ARE PHYSICAL BEINGS ENGAGING IN A DNA SNAKE-DANCE WITH ME, A FICTION, YOUR IMMATERIAL LUNAR IMAGINATION.

14

TAROT PATH: THE EMPRESS. PLANET: VENUS. COLOR: SKY BLUE. JEWEL: EMERALD, TURQUOISE. PLANT: ROSE, MYRTLE, CLOVER. PERFUME: SANDALWOOD, MYRTLE, ALL SOFT AND VOLUPTUOUS ODORS. ANIMAL: SPARROW, DOVE, SWAN.

To the Old Testament's Creator God, or to any newborn infant, the Universe and themselves are initially perceived as one indivisible thing.

Naming things, God, or the infant, separates itself from everything else with language, divides earth from sky, fish from fowl, and thus creates and constructs the diverse Universe around them.

Visionary Emanuel Swedenborg stated, "Angels know nothing of Time." The solar consciousness of Tiphereth is eternal, like Einstein's Spacetime, or Joyce's eternity-embracing single day.

Both lunar and serpentine, Promethea represents those fertile forces coupling within us, whereby we parthenogenetically conceive and birth the shining, redeeming child of our own sacred Will.

15

TAROT PATH: THE EMPEROR. ZODIAC SIGN: ARIES. COLOR: RED. JEWEL: RUBY. PLANT: TIGER LILY, GERANIUM. PERFUME: DRAGON'S BLOOD. ANIMAL: RAM, OWL.

I'VE ENJOYED OUR DANCE. YOU WERE THE PERFECT PARTNER, AND I'M GOING TO MISS YOU.

BUT SPACETIME IS ETERNAL, WITH EVERYTHING IN IT.

AND YOU AND ME ARE ALWAYS HERE, ALWAYS NOW.

YOU AND ME ARE *FOREVER.*

WELL, MY LOVES, WE'RE AT THE END. AT THE *DEATH,* IF YOU LIKE... ALTHOUGH LIKE DEATH, THERE'S PLENTY MORE SURPRISES ON THE OTHER *SIDE.*

BUT WHILE WE'RE HERE AND ALIVE, LET'S BE GLAD.

16

TAROT PATH: THE HEIROPHANT. ZODIAC SIGN: TAURUS. COLOR: DEEP INDIGO. JEWEL: TOPAZ. PLANT: MALLOW. PERFUME: STORAX. ANIMAL: BULL.

LET'S *CELEBRATE.*

Einstein's Spacetime is a timeless four-dimensional solid, containing every instant simultaneously, forever... including our lives. DEATH, therefore, is a perspective illusion of the third dimension. Don't worry.

A funeral CELEBRATION, or WAKE, dominates James Joyce's *FINNEGANS WAKE,* in which all human experience is distilled into one timeless day. Cheers!

Wrap Party

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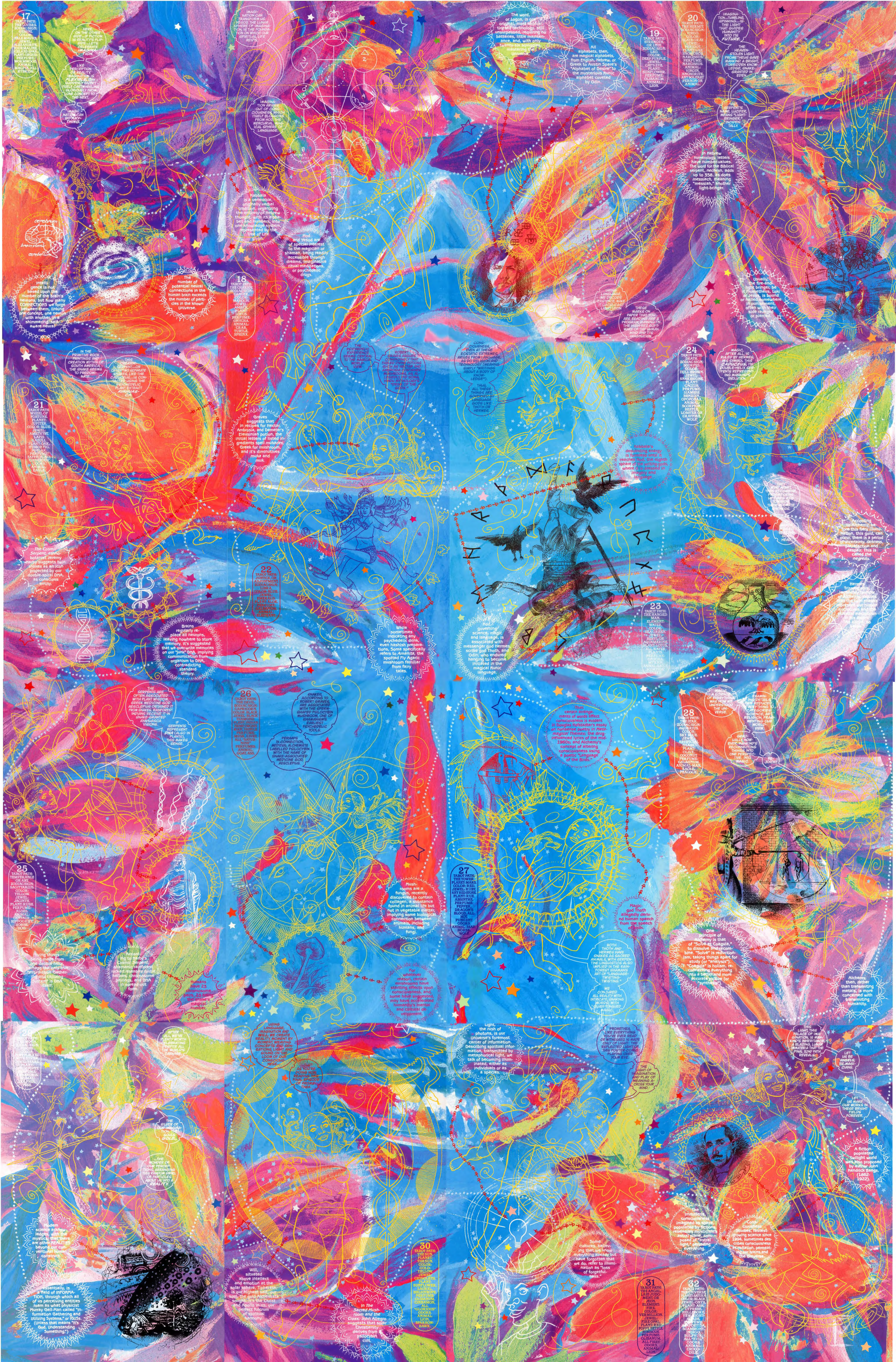
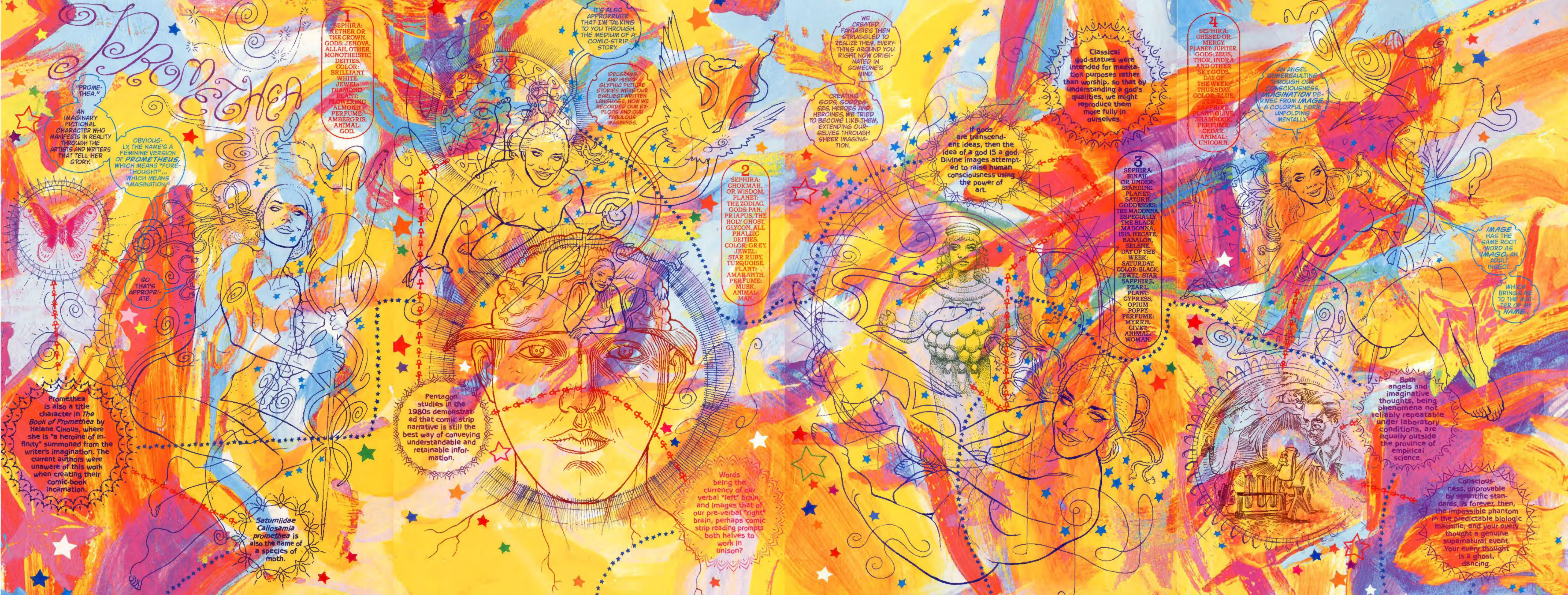
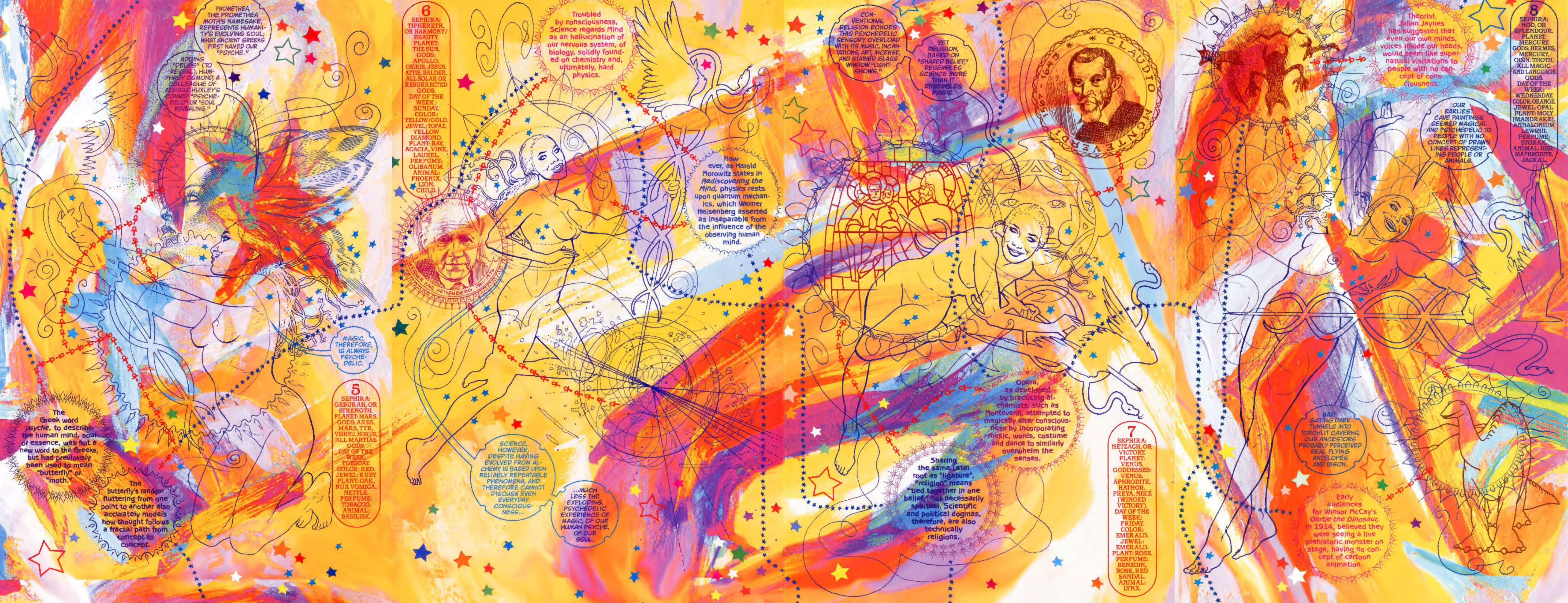
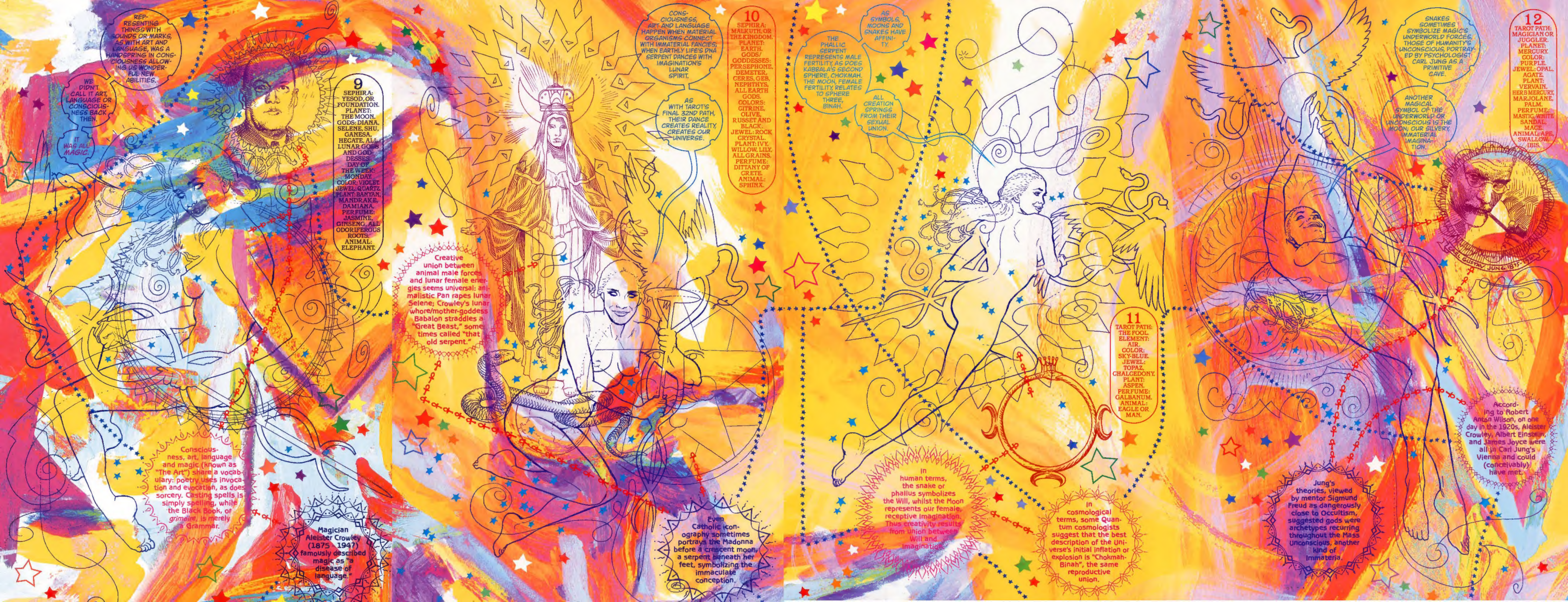
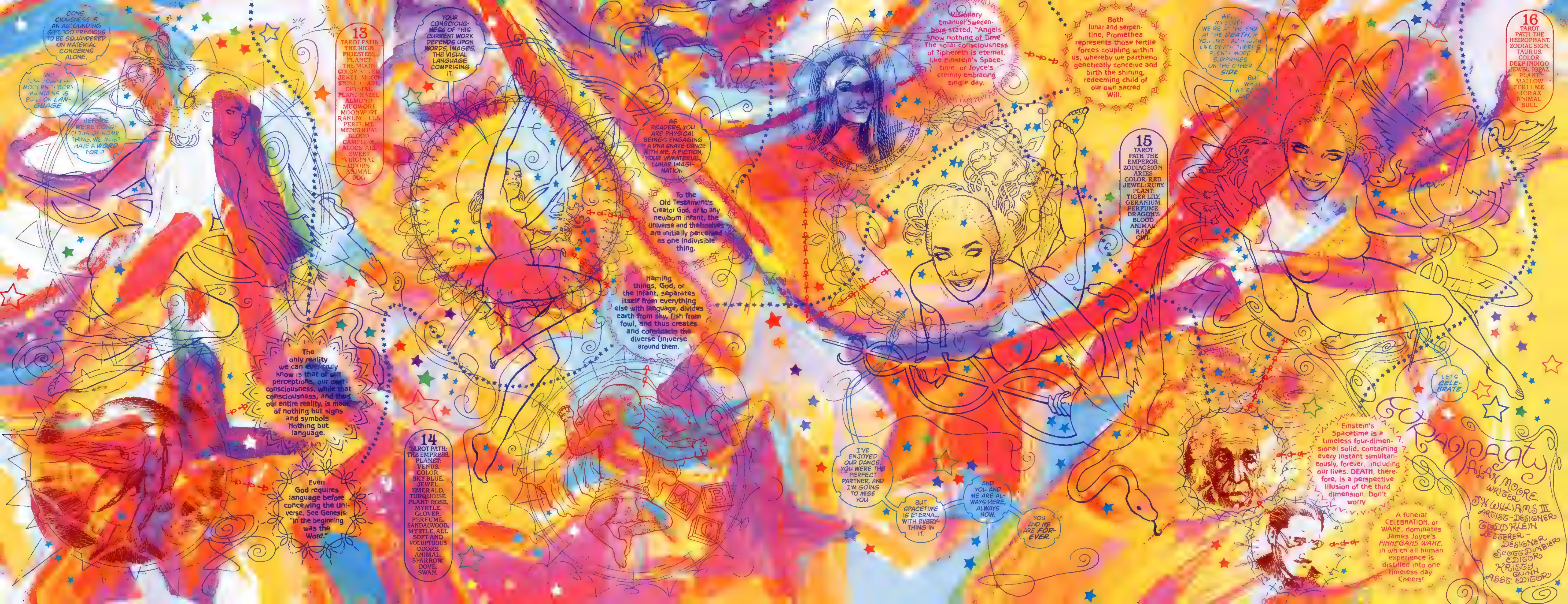

17 TAROT PATH: THE LOVERS. ZODIAC SIGN: GEMINI. COLOR: PALE MAUVE. JEWEL: ALEXANDRITE, TOURMALINE, ICELAND SPAR. PLANT: ORCHID. PERFUME: WORMWOOD. ANIMAL: MAGPIE, ALL HYBRIDS.
HERE, ON THE OTHER SIDE... IF FICTION IS REALITY'S FLIP-SIDE... LET'S CELEBRATE *IMAGINATION.*
LIKE PERCEPTION OR REALITY, IMAGINATION IS *FLEXIBLE.* CAN SUDDENLY INVERT ITSELF, CARTWHEELING GLORIOUSLY FROM ONE CONCEPT TO THE NEXT.
IMAGINATION CAN DO *ANYTHING.*
IMAGINATION CAN TRANSFORM US. YESOD, THE LUNAR SPHERE OF IMAGINATION, IS THE FOUNDATION ON WHICH OUR SPIRITUAL LIFE RESTS.
IMAGINATION ARISES OUT OF CONSCIOUSNESS, WHICH ITSELF BLOSSOMS FROM HOD, THE MERCURIAL, MAGICAL SPHERE OF LANGUAGE.
Kabbala is a venerable, originally verbal tradition, organizing the entirety of Hebrew thought, with its alphabet and numbers, into one knowledge system, represented by the Tree of Life glyph.
Hod and Yesod are of special interest to the magician or shaman, being readily accessible through dreams, imaginative ritual meditations, or psychedelic drugs.
cerebrum
brainstem
cerebellum
Intelligence is not based upon the number of the brain's neurons, but how many CONNECTIONS we forge between them, linking one concept, one neuron with another, in a shimmering, self-aware neural net.
The number of potential neural connections in the human brain exceeds the number of particles in the known Universe.
18 TAROT PATH: THE CHARIOT. ZODIAC SIGN: CANCER. COLOR: MAROON. JEWEL: AMBER. PLANT: LOTUS. PERFUME: ONYCHA. ANIMAL: CRAB, TURTLE, SPHINX.
The word, or Logos, is our original, most sophisticated technology, still unsurpassed, requiring no batteries, little maintenance, and, with only twenty-six squiggles, mastering the Universe.
All alphabets, then, are magical alphabets, from English, Hebrew, or Greek to Austin Spare's "Alphabet of Desire" to the mysterious Runic alphabet coveted by Odin.
AUSTIN OSMAN SPARE 1886-1956
19 TAROT PATH: STRENGTH, OR LUST. ZODIAC SIGN: LEO. COLOR: DEEP PURPLE. JEWEL: CAT'S EYE. PLANT: SUNFLOWER. PERFUME: OLIBANUM. ANIMAL: LION.
20 TAROT PATH: THE HERMIT. ZODIAC SIGN: VIRGO. COLOR: SLATE GRAY. JEWEL: PERIDOT. PLANT: LILY, SNOWDROP, NARCISSUS. PERFUME: NARCISSUS. ANIMAL: VIRGIN, ANCHORITE, ANY SOLITARY PERSON OR ANIMAL.
IMAGINATION... TUMBLING, SPINNING... IS THE LIGHT THAT GUIDES HUMANITY INTO ITS *FUTURE.*
THE HEAVEN-STOLEN LIGHT PROMETHEUS GAVE MANKIND. A BRIGHT, FORBIDDEN KNOWLEDGE, SNAKE-GRANTED IN EDEN.
THAT SERPENT'S NAME, LUCIFER, MEANS "LIGHT-BRINGER," INCIDENTALLY.
In Hebrew numerology, letters have number-values. The word for the Biblical serpent, *nechesh*, adds up to 358, as does *messiach*, meaning "messiah," another light-bringer.
Usually, the fire-and-light bringer, be it Prometheus, Loki or Jesus, is bound or nailed somewhere in punishment, often with their side ravaged or pierced.
USING LANGUAGE, WE DECODE EXISTENCE, MAKE IT LUCID, CAST LIGHT UPON IT.
THESE MARKS ON PAPER THAT YOU ARE READING ARE A PROGRAM, RUNNING ON THE HIGH-REZ SOFTWARE OF THE HUMAN MIND AND IT'S IMAGINATION.
IN THE PRIMITIVE ROCK PAINTINGS AND CREATION MYTHS OF SOUTH AMERICA, THE SNAKE SEEMS TO PREDOMINATE.
THIS CREATOR-SERPENT... OR OFTEN TWO SEPARATE SNAKES, LIKE THE CADUCEUS... IS CONTACTED USING THE PSYCHEDELIC PLANT EXTRACT *AYAHUASCA.*
21 TAROT PATH: WHEEL OF FORTUNE. PLANET: JUPITER. COLOR: BLUE. JEWEL: AMETHYST, LAPIS LAZULI. PLANT: OAK, HYSSOP, FIG, POPLAR. PERFUME: SAFFRON, ALL "GENEROUS" ODORS. ANIMAL: EAGLE.
THE PSYCHEDELIC EXPERIENCE SEEMS CENTRAL TO THE MAGICAL WORLD-VIEW.
ROBERT GRAVES ARGUES CONVINCINGLY THAT FABLED DIVINE POTIONS SUCH AS NECTAR AND AMBROSIA CONTAINED MUSHROOMS, AS, ALLEGEDLY, DID SOMA, HINDU MYTHOLOGY'S "DRINK OF THE GODS."
Graves suggests that in recipes for Nectar, Ambrosia, and Demeter's Eleusinian potion, the initial letters of listed ingredients spell *mukades*, Greek for mushroom, and it's diminutives *muka* and *muk*.
CONSCIOUSNESS, EVEN AT THESE ECSTATIC EXTREMES, ARISES FROM LANGUAGE, AS DO RELIGION AND TECHNOLOGY (MEANING SIMPLY "WRITINGS ABOUT A BODY OF KNOWLEDGE").
THUS, ALL THESE THINGS ARE GOVERNED BY LANGUAGE GODS LIKE THOTH OR HERMES.
Kabbala's descending energy is formless until it reaches Hod, the eighth sphere of the writing-gods, where it is dressed in imagery and language.
24 TAROT PATH: DEATH. ZODIAC SIGN: SCORPIO. COLOR: DULL BROWN. JEWEL: SNAKESTONE. PLANT: CACTUS. PERFUME: SIAMESE BENZOIN, OPOPONAX. ANIMAL: SCORPION, BEETLE, LOBSTER OR CRAYFISH, WOLF.
MAGIC, AFTER ALL, IS RULED BY HERMES, HIS SYMBOL THIS *CADUCEUS,* ITS DOUBLE-HELIX SERPENTS REPRESENTING MANKIND'S EVOLUTION.
THEY WIND APART, THEN RECOMBINE, PROGRESSING UP TIME'S AXIS TOWARDS THEIR ULTIMATE SYNTHESIS.
TWO WINGED BUDS... BLOOMING... GOD-HEAD.
According to Alchemy, before this fiery illumination, this gold, can occur, there is a period of uncertainty, darkness, putrefaction and despair. This is called *the negredo*.
Hermes Trismegistus, legendary founder of Alchemy, implies that the twin snakes represent our human microcosm and the celestial macrocosm in his dictum "As above, so below."
In *The Cosmic Serpent*, ethnobotanist Jeremy Narby suggests twin snakes as an icon projected by our double-spiral DNA, as conscious entity.
22 TAROT PATH: JUSTICE, OR ADJUSTMENT. ZODIAC SIGN: LIBRA. COLOR: BLUE. JEWEL: EMERALD. PLANT: ALOE. PERFUME: GALBANUM. ANIMAL: ELEPHANT.
Brains regularly replace all neurons, leaving nowhere to store memory. It's suggested that we over-write memories on our "junk" DNA, implying communication from organism to DNA, contradicting standard theory.
While sometimes indicating any psychedelic drink, even hashish preparations, Soma specifically refers to *Amanita*, the spotted Fly Agaric mushroom familiar from fairy tales.
Hod, governing science, magic and language, is associated with messenger god Hermes, scribe god Thoth, and Odin, who endured hanging to become initiated in the magical Runic language.
23 TAROT PATH: THE HANGED MAN. ELEMENT: WATER. COLOR: SEA GREEN. JEWEL: BERYL OR AQUAMARINE. PLANT: LOTUS, ALL WATER PLANTS. PERFUME: ONYCHA, MYRRH. ANIMAL: EAGLE, SCORPION, SNAKE.
THE SERPENTS ARE OFTEN ASSOCIATED WITH PLANT WISDOM. GREEK MEDICINE GOD AESCLEPIUS OBTAINED IT FROM SNAKES. RAINFOREST INDIANS RECEIVE IT IN SNAKE-GRANTED AYAHUASCA VISIONS.
IF SERPENTS REPRESENT *DNA* (ALSO IN PLANTS), THIS MAKES SENSE.
26 TAROT PATH: THE DEVIL. ZODIAC SIGN: CAPRICORN. COLOR: BLACK. JEWEL: BLACK DIAMOND. PLANT: INDIAN HEMP, ORCHIS ROOT, THISTLE. PERFUME: MUSK, CIVET, ALL "SATURNINE" PERFUMES. ANIMAL: GOAT, ASS.
SNAKES, ACCORDING TO ROBERT GRAVES, ARE ASSOCIATED WITH THE SPERM-SHAPED PSILOCYBIN MUSHROOM, ONE OF SHAMANISM'S EARLIEST PSYCHEDELIC TOOLS.
PERHAPS IN CONNECTION, MEDIEVAL ALCHEMISTS LABELLED PSILOCYBIN WITH THE NAME OF SNAKE-ASSOCIATED MEDICINE GOD, AESCLEPIUS.
That certain arrangements of words affect consciousness is evident in Douglas Hofstadter's essay on nonsense poetry in *Metamagical Themas*; the drug-influenced lyrics of the mid-1960s; and Alchemy's concept of altering consciousness using a poetic "Language of the Birds."
28 TAROT PATH: THE STAR. ZODIAC SIGN: AQUARIUS. COLOR: SKY BLUE. JEWEL: ARTIFICIAL GLASS. PLANT: OLIVE, COCONUT. PERFUME: GALBANUM. ANIMAL: MAN, EAGLE, PEACOCK.
MAGIC, A SCIENCE OF EVERYTHING, WAS HOW WE UNDERSTOOD THE UNIVERSE.
EXAMINING DETAILS, WE REDUCED EVERYTHING TO CATEGORIES: SCIENCE, ART, RELIGION, FRAGMENTING OUR WORLD-VIEW.
GRADUALLY, HOWEVER, MANKIND'S RECONNECTING THINGS INTO ONE PERSPECTIVE, INTO MAGIC.
REJOICE!
25 TAROT PATH: TEMPERANCE OR ART. ZODIAC SIGN: SAGITTARIUS. COLOR: YELLOW. JEWEL: JACINTH. PLANT: RUSH. PERFUME: ALOES. ANIMAL: CENTAUR, HIPPOGRIFF, HORSE, DOG.
All living things being made from one double helix, perhaps the only true "Information Gathering and Utilizing System" is DNA itself.
According to Narby's *Cosmic Serpent*, shamanic rainforest rock-art resembles double helixes, chromosome pairings, and DNA in spread-out form.
Humans have 23 chromosome pairs, 23 being the snake's magical number.
Mushrooms are a fungus, recently discovered to contain collagen, a substance found in animal life but not in vegetable matter, implying some biological connection between animals, including humans, and fungi.
For whatever reason, certain mushrooms have startling effects upon consciousness, and, some have suggested, may have accelerated humanity's mental and cultural development.
27 TAROT PATH: THE TOWER. PLANET: MARS. COLOR: RED. JEWEL: RUBY, ANY RED STONE. PLANT: RUE, ABSINTHE. PERFUME: PEPPER, DRAGON'S BLOOD, ALL HOT, PUNGENT ODORS. ANIMAL: BEAR, HORSE, WOLF.
Magic-god Thoth allegedly derived human speech from the speech of birds.
BOTH THOTH AND HERMES HAVE SNAKES AS SACRED ANIMALS, WITH SERPENTINE LINGUISTICS ALSO IMPLIED IN THE RAINFOREST SHAMAN'S ART OF "LANGUAGE-TWISTING-TWISTING."
WE CONJURED ALL REALITY WITH INTRICATE, SNAKING WORDS; WITH SILVER-TONGUED MAGIC.
One principle of Alchemy is that of "Solvé et Coagula," to dissolve and recombine. "Solvé" is reductionism, taking things apart for study (or "analysis"). "Coagula" is holism, reconnecting everything into a better and more accurate picture (or "synthesis").
Alchemy, then, rather than transmuting metals, is more concerned with transmuting humanity.
29 TAROT PATH: THE MOON. ZODIAC SIGN: PISCES. COLOR: BUFF FLECKED WITH SILVER. JEWEL: PEARL. PLANT: OPIUM POPPY. PERFUME: AMBERGRIS. ANIMAL: DOLPHIN, FISH.
AFTER ALL, WE'VE PLENTY WORTH CELEBRATING DESPITE ALL THE WORLD'S CARNAGE.
THE SILVER OF OUR IMAGINATION, THE SOUL'S *GOLD...*
...THE WONDER OF OUR PERCEPTIONS, ARRANGING THIS RANDOM SWIRL OF PARTICLES ABOUT US INTO A *REALITY.*
Modern science acknowledges, with the mystics, that there are other REALITIES beyond our conventional human construct.
Reality, essentially, is a field of INFORMATION, through which all of us perceiving entities roam as what physicist Murray Gell-Man called "Information Gathering and Utilizing Systems," or IGUSs. (Unless that means "It's God, Understanding Something.")
USING LANGUAGE, IMAGINATION AND *WILL*, WE CREATE REALITY, MOMENT BY MOMENT, WEAVING CONCEPTS AND SENSATIONS, LIGHT AND SOUND, ON THE LOOM OF OUR CONSCIOUSNESS...
...JUST AS YOU'RE DOING NOW, READING THIS FINAL EPISODE OF PROMETHEA.
Light, the rush of photons, is our Universe's foremost carrier of information. Describing spiritual information, transmitted by metaphorical light, we talk of becoming illuminated, either as individuals or as a species.
PROMETHEA, LIKE EVERYTHING YOU'VE EVER READ OR WITNESSED, IS MADE ONLY OF LIGHT: THE REFLECTED LIGHT OF THIS POSTER-COMIC PLAYING OVER YOUR EYE.
THE LIGHT OF IMAGINATION AND PLAY OF MEANING ACROSS YOUR MIND.
THIS LIGHT, THIS PALACE OF IMAGINATION, IS MANKIND'S INHERITANCE, A BLAZING, LUNAR IMMATERIA THAT THE FINAL 32ND PATH REVEALS.
LET US BE ANGELS, BE MAGICIANS.
LET US MAKE OUR WORKS IN THESE BRIGHT FIELDS FOREVER.
JOHN KENDRICK BANGS 1862-1922
A fiction-populated twilight world was also proposed by author John Kendrick Bangs, (1862-1922).
Will, situated above intellect and emotion at the solar sphere, Tiphereth, is our highest self, our soul, the gold Alchemists sought. It's the Christ and Apollo in us, our perfect fulcrum of spiritual harmony.
In *The Sacred Mushroom and the Cross*, John Allegro suggests that solar Christianity derives from a psilocybin cult.
30 TAROT PATH: THE SUN. PLANET: THE SUN. COLOR: GOLD-YELLOW. JEWEL: CRYSOLETH. PLANT: SUNFLOWER, LAUREL, HELIOTROPE. PERFUME: OLIBANUM, CINNAMON, ALL "GLORIOUS" ODORS. ANIMAL: LION, SPARROW-HAWK.
Some cultures, believing that we know everything already but have forgotten that we do, refer to illumination as "loss of forgetfulness."
The Immateria, consciousness imagined as space, populated by fictions, resembles mysticism's astral plane, composed of "astral light," pervading everything.
Consciousness Studies, fastest-growing science since 1994, sometimes describes consciousness as radiation, permeating our brains and the Universe.
31 TAROT PATH: THE ANGEL, LAST JUDGMENT, OR ÆON. ELEMENT: FIRE. COLOR: VERMILLION. JEWEL: FIRE OPAL. PLANT: RED POPPY, NETTLE, HIBISCUS. PERFUME: OLIBANUM, ALL FIERY ODORS. ANIMAL: LION.
32 TAROT PATH: THE UNIVERSE. PLANET: SATURN. COLOR: BLACK. JEWEL: ONYX. PLANT: ASH, CYPRESS, HELLEBORE, YEW, NIGHTSHADE. PERFUME: ASAFOETIDA, SCAMMONY, INDIGO, SULPHUR, ALL "EVIL" ODORS. ANIMAL: CROCODILE.


PROMETHEA
"PROMETHEA."
AN IMAGINARY FICTIONAL CHARACTER WHO MANIFESTS IN REALITY THROUGH THE ARTISTS AND WRITERS THAT TELL HER STORY.
OBVIOUSLY, THE NAME'S A FEMININE VERSION OF ***PROMETHEUS,*** WHICH MEANS "FORETHOUGHT"... WHICH MEANS "IMAGINATION."
SO THAT'S APPROPRIATE.
Promethea is also a title character in *The Book of Promethea* by Helene Cixous, where she is "a heroine of infinity" summoned from the writer's imagination. The current authors were unaware of this work when creating their comic-book incarnation.
Saturniidae Callosamia promethea is also the name of a species of moth.
1 SEPHIRA: KETHER OR THE CROWN. GODS: JEHOVA, ALLAH, OTHER MONOTHEISTIC DEITIES. COLOR: BRILLIANT WHITE. JEWEL: DIAMOND. PLANT: FLOWERING ALMOND. PERFUME: AMBERGRIS. ANIMAL: GOD.
IT'S ALSO APPROPRIATE THAT I'M TALKING TO YOU THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF A COMIC-STRIP STORY.
IDEOGRAMS AND HIEROGLYPHIC PICTURE STORIES WERE OUR EARLIEST WRITTEN LANGUAGE, HOW WE RECORDED OUR EXPLOITS AND OUR FABULOUS IMAGININGS.
Pentagon studies in the 1980s demonstrated that comic strip narrative is still the best way of conveying understandable and retainable information.
2 SEPHIRA: CHOKMAH, OR WISDOM. PLANET: THE ZODIAC. GODS: PAN, PRIAPUS, THE HOLY GHOST, GLYCON, ALL PHALLIC DEITIES. COLOR: GREY. JEWEL: STAR RUBY, TURQUOISE. PLANT: AMARANTH. PERFUME: MUSK. ANIMAL: MAN.
Words being the currency of our verbal "left" brain, and images that of our pre-verbal "right" brain, perhaps comic strip reading prompts both halves to work in unison?
WE CREATED FANTASIES THEN STRUGGLED TO REALIZE THEM. EVERYTHING AROUND YOU RIGHT NOW ORIGINATED IN SOMEONE'S MIND.
CREATING GODS, GODDESSES, HEROES AND HEROINES, WE TRIED TO BECOME LIKE THEM, EXTENDING OURSELVES THROUGH SHEER IMAGINATION.
If gods are transcendent ideas, then the idea of a god IS a god. Divine images attempted to raise human consciousness using the power of art.
Classical god-statues were intended for meditation purposes rather than worship, so that by understanding a god's qualities, we might reproduce them more fully in ourselves.
3 SEPHIRA: BINAH, OR UNDERSTANDING. PLANET: SATURN. GODDESSES: THE MADONNA, ESPECIALLY THE BLACK MADONNA, ISIS, HECATE, BABALON, SELENE. DAY OF THE WEEK: SATURDAY. COLOR: BLACK. JEWEL: STAR SAPPHIRE, PEARL. PLANT: CYPRESS, OPIUM POPPY. PERFUME: MYRRH, CIVET. ANIMAL: WOMAN.
4 SEPHIRA: CHESED OR MERCY. PLANET: JUPITER. GODS: ZEUS, THOR, INDRA AND OTHER SKY GODS. DAY OF THE WEEK: THURSDAY. COLOR: BLUE. JEWEL: SAPPHIRE. PLANT: OLIVE, SHAMROCK. PERFUME: CEDAR. ANIMAL: UNICORN.
AN ANGEL SOMERSAULTING THROUGH OUR CONSCIOUSNESS, ***IMAGINATION*** DERIVES FROM ***IMAGE,*** A COLORFUL FORM UNFOLDING MENTALLY.
IMAGE HAS THE SAME ROOT WORD AS ***IMAGO,*** AN ADULT INSECT.
WHICH BRINGS ME TO THE MATTER OF MY ***NAME...***
Both angels and imaginative thoughts, being phenomena not reliably repeatable under laboratory conditions, are equally outside the province of empirical science.
Consciousness, unprovable by scientific standards, is forever, then, the impossible phantom in the predictable biologic machine, and your every thought a genuine supernatural event. Your every thought is a ghost, dancing.


PROMETHEA, THE PROMETHEA MOTH'S NAMESAKE, REPRESENTS HUMANITY'S EVOLVING SOUL; WHAT ANCIENT GREEKS FIRST NAMED OUR "PSYCHE."
ADDING "DELOS" (TO REVEAL), HUMPHREY OSMOND, A COLLEAGUE OF ALDOUS HUXLEY'S COINED "PSYCHEDELIC" OR "SOUL REVEALING."
The Greek word *psyche*, to describe the human mind, soul or essence, was not a new word to the Greeks, but had previously been used to mean "butterfly" or "moth."
The butterfly's random fluttering from one point to another also accurately models how thought follows a fractal path from concept to concept.
MAGIC, THEREFORE, IS ALWAYS PSYCHEDELIC.
5 SEPHIRA: GEBURAH, OR STRENGTH. PLANET: MARS. GODS: ARES, MARS, TYR, VISHNU, HORUS, ALL MARTIAL GODS. DAY OF THE WEEK: TUESDAY. COLOR: RED. JEWEL: RUBY. PLANT: OAK, NUX VOMICA, NETTLE. PERFUME: TOBACCO. ANIMAL: BASILISK.
6 SEPHIRA: TIPHERETH, OR HARMONY/ BEAUTY. PLANET: THE SUN. GODS: APOLLO, OSIRIS, JESUS, ATTIS, BALDER, ALL SOLAR OR RESURRECTED GODS. DAY OF THE WEEK: SUNDAY. COLOR: YELLOW/GOLD. JEWEL: TOPAZ, YELLOW DIAMOND. PLANT: BAY, ACACIA, VINE, LAUREL. PERFUME: OLIBANUM. ANIMAL: PHOENIX, LION, CHILD.
Troubled by consciousness, Science regards Mind as an hallucination of our nervous system, of biology, solidly founded on chemistry and, ultimately, hard physics.
WERNER KARL HEISENBERG 1901-1976
However, as Harold Morowitz states in *Rediscovering the Mind*, physics rests upon quantum mechanics, which Werner Heisenberg asserted as inseparable from the influence of the observing human mind.
SCIENCE, HOWEVER, DESPITE HAVING EVOLVED FROM ALCHEMY, IS BASED UPON RELIABLY REPEATABLE PHENOMENA, AND THEREFORE CANNOT DISCUSS EVEN EVERYDAY CONSCIOUSNESS...
...MUCH LESS THE EXPLODING, PSYCHEDELIC EXPERIENCE OF MAGIC, OF OUR HUMAN PSYCHE, OF OUR SOUL.
CONVENTIONAL RELIGION ECHOES THIS PSYCHEDELIC SENSORY OVERLOAD WITH ITS MUSIC, INCANTATIONS, ART, INCENSE, AND STAINED GLASS WINDOW "LIGHT SHOWS."
YET RELIGION, BASED ON "SHARED BELIEF," RESEMBLES SCIENCE MORE THAN IT RESEMBLES MAGIC.
CLAUDIO MONTEVERDI 1567 - 1643
Opera, as developed by practicing alchemists, such as Monteverdi, attempted to magically alter consciousness by incorporating music, words, costume and dance to similarly overwhelm the senses.
Sharing the same Latin root as "ligature", "religion" means "tied together in one belief," not necessarily spiritual. Scientific and political dogmas, therefore, are also technically religions.
7 SEPHIRA: NETZACH, OR VICTORY. PLANET: VENUS. GODDESSES: VENUS, APHRODITE, HATHOR, FREYA, NIKE (WINGED VICTORY). DAY OF THE WEEK: FRIDAY. COLOR: EMERALD. JEWEL: EMERALD. PLANT: ROSE. PERFUME: BENZOIN, ROSE, RED SANDAL. ANIMAL: LYNX.
Theorist Julian Jaynes has suggested that even our own minds, voices inside our heads, would seem like supernatural visitations to people with no concept of consciousness.
8 SEPHIRA: HOD, OR SPLENDOUR. PLANET: MERCURY. GODS: HERMES, MERCURY, ODIN, THOTH, ALL MAGIC AND LANGUAGE GODS. DAY OF THE WEEK: WEDNESDAY. COLOR: ORANGE. JEWEL: OPAL. PLANT: MOLY (MANDRAKE), ANHALONIUM LEWINII. PERFUME: STORAX. ANIMAL: HERMAPHRODITE, JACKAL.
OUR EARLIEST CAVE PAINTINGS SEEMED MAGICAL AND PSYCHEDELIC TO PEOPLE WITH NO CONCEPT OF DRAWN LINES REPRESENTING PEOPLE OR ANIMALS.
NAVIGATING DARK TUNNELS INTO TORCHLIT CAVERNS, OUR ANCESTORS PROBABLY PERCEIVED REAL FLYING ANTELOPES AND BISON.
Early audiences for Winsor McCay's *Gertie the Dinosaur*, in 1914, believed they were seeing a live prehistoric monster on stage, having no concept of cartoon animation.


REPRESENTING THINGS WITH SOUNDS OR MARKS, AS WITH ART AND LANGUAGE, WAS A HANDSPRING IN CONSCIOUSNESS ALLOWING US WONDERFUL NEW ABILITIES.
WE DIDN'T CALL IT ART, LANGUAGE OR CONSCIOUSNESS BACK THEN.
IT WAS ALL *MAGIC.*
9 SEPHIRA: YESOD, OR FOUNDATION. PLANET: THE MOON. GODS: DIANA, SELENE, SHU, GANESA, HECATE, ALL LUNAR GODS AND GODDESSES. DAY OF THE WEEK: MONDAY. COLOR: VIOLET. JEWEL: QUARTZ. PLANT: BANYAN, MANDRAKE, DAMIANA. PERFUME: JASMINE, GINSENG, ALL ODORIFEROUS ROOTS. ANIMAL: ELEPHANT.
Creative union between animal male forces and lunar female energies seems universal: animalistic Pan rapes lunar Selene; Crowley's lunar whore/mother-goddess Babalon straddles a "Great Beast," sometimes called "that old serpent."
Consciousness, art, language and magic (known as "The Art") share a vocabulary: poetry uses invocation and evocation, as does sorcery. Casting spells is simply spelling, while the Black Book, or *grimoire,* is merely a Grammar.
Magician Aleister Crowley (1875 - 1947) famously described magic as "a disease of language."
CONSCIOUSNESS, ART AND LANGUAGE HAPPEN WHEN MATERIAL ORGANISMS CONNECT WITH IMMATERIAL FANCIES; WHEN EARTHLY LIFE'S DNA SERPENT DANCES WITH IMAGINATION'S LUNAR SPIRIT.
AS WITH TAROT'S FINAL 32ND PATH, THEIR DANCE CREATES REALITY, CREATES OUR UNIVERSE.
10 SEPHIRA: MALKUTH, OR THE KINGDOM. PLANET: EARTH. GODS/GODDESSES: PERSEPHONE, DEMETER, CERES, GEB, NEPHTHYS, ALL EARTH GODS. COLORS: CITRINE, OLIVE, RUSSET AND BLACK. JEWEL: ROCK CRYSTAL. PLANT: IVY, WILLOW, LILY, ALL GRAINS. PERFUME: DITTANY OF CRETE. ANIMAL: SPHINX.
Even Catholic iconography sometimes portrays the Madonna before a crescent moon, a serpent beneath her feet, symbolizing the immaculate conception.
THE PHALLIC SERPENT REPRESENTS MALE FERTILITY, AS DOES KABBALA'S SECOND SPHERE, CHOKMAH. THE MOON, FEMALE FERTILITY, RELATES TO SPHERE THREE, BINAH.
AS SYMBOLS, MOONS AND SNAKES HAVE AFFINITY.
ALL CREATION SPRINGS FROM THEIR SEXUAL UNION.
In human terms, the snake or phallus symbolizes the Will, whilst the Moon represents our female, receptive imagination. Thus creativity results from union between Will and Imagination.
11 TAROT PATH: THE FOOL. ELEMENT: AIR. COLOR: SKY-BLUE. JEWEL: TOPAZ, CHALCEDONY. PLANT: ASPEN. PERFUME: GALBANUM. ANIMAL: EAGLE OR MAN.
In cosmological terms, some Quantum cosmologists suggest that the best description of the Universe's initial inflation or explosion is "Chokmah-Binah", the same reproductive union.
SNAKES SOMETIMES SYMBOLIZE MAGIC'S UNDERWORLD FORCES, THOSE OF HUMANITY'S UNCONSCIOUS, PORTRAYED BY PSYCHOLOGIST CARL JUNG AS A PRIMITIVE CAVE.
ANOTHER MAGICAL SYMBOL OF THE UNDERWORLD OR UNCONSCIOUS IS THE MOON; OUR SILVERY, IMMATERIAL IMAGINATION.
12 TAROT PATH: MAGICIAN OR JUGGLER. PLANET: MERCURY. COLOR: PURPLE. JEWEL: OPAL, AGATE. PLANT: VERVAIN, HERB MERCURY, MARJOLANE, PALM. PERFUME: MASTIC, WHITE SANDAL, MACE. ANIMAL: APE, SWALLOW, IBIS.
CARL GUSTAV JUNG 1875-196
According to Robert Anton Wilson, on one day in the 1920s, Aleister Crowley, Albert Einstein and James Joyce were all in Carl Jung's Vienna and could (conceivably) have met.
Jung's theories, viewed by mentor Sigmund Freud as dangerously close to Occultism, suggested gods were archetypes recurring throughout the Mass Unconscious, another kind of Immateria.


CONSCIOUSNESS IS AN ASTOUNDING GIFT, TOO PRECIOUS TO BE SQUANDERED ON MATERIAL CONCERNS ALONE.
AND CONSCIOUSNESS, MODERN THEORY MAINTAINS, IS BUILT ON LANGUAGE
BEFORE WE'RE CONSCIOUS OF SOMETHING, WE MUST HAVE A WORD FOR IT
13 TAROT PATH: THE HIGH PRIESTESS. PLANET: THE MOON. COLOR: SILVER. JEWEL: MOONSTONE, PEARL, CRYSTAL. PLANT: HAZEL, ALMOND, MUGWORT, MOONWORT, RANUNCULUS. PERFUME: MENSTRUAL BLOOD, CAMPHOR, ALOES, ALL SWEET VIRGINAL ODORS. ANIMAL: DOG.
YOUR CONSCIOUSNESS OF THIS CURRENT WORK DEPENDS UPON WORDS, IMAGES, THE VISUAL LANGUAGE COMPRISING IT.
AS READERS, YOU ARE PHYSICAL BEINGS ENGAGING IN A DNA SNAKE-DANCE WITH ME, A FICTION, YOUR IMMATERIAL, LUNAR IMAGINATION
To the Old Testament's Creator God, or to any newborn infant, the Universe and themselves are initially perceived as one indivisible thing.
Naming things, God, or the infant, separates itself from everything else with language, divides earth from sky, fish from fowl, and thus creates and constructs the diverse Universe around them.
The only reality we can ever truly know is that of our perceptions, our own consciousness, while that consciousness, and thus our entire reality, is made of nothing but signs and symbols. Nothing but language.
Even God requires language before conceiving the Universe. See Genesis: "In the beginning was the Word."
14 TAROT PATH: THE EMPRESS. PLANET: VENUS. COLOR: SKY BLUE. JEWEL: EMERALD, TURQUOISE. PLANT: ROSE, MYRTLE, CLOVER. PERFUME: SANDALWOOD, MYRTLE, ALL SOFT AND VOLUPTUOUS ODORS. ANIMAL: SPARROW, DOVE, SWAN.
A B C
Visionary Emanuel Swedenborg stated, "Angels know nothing of Time." The solar consciousness of Tiphereth is eternal, like Einstein's Spacetime, or Joyce's eternity embracing single day.
SOPHIA BANGS, PROMETHEA 1999-2004
Both lunar and serpentine, Promethea represents those fertile forces coupling within us, whereby we parthenogenetically conceive and birth the shining, redeeming child of our own sacred Will.
15 TAROT PATH: THE EMPEROR. ZODIAC SIGN: ARIES. COLOR: RED. JEWEL: RUBY. PLANT: TIGER LILY, GERANIUM. PERFUME: DRAGON'S BLOOD. ANIMAL: RAM, OWL.
I'VE ENJOYED OUR DANCE. YOU WERE THE PERFECT PARTNER, AND I'M GOING TO MISS YOU
BUT SPACETIME IS ETERNAL, WITH EVERYTHING IN IT.
AND YOU AND ME ARE ALWAYS HERE, ALWAYS NOW.
YOU AND ME ARE FOREVER.
WELL, MY LOVER, WE'RE AT THE END. AT THE DEATH, IF YOU LIKE. AND THOUGH IT'S LIKE DEATH THERE'S PLENTY MORE SURPRISES ON THE OTHER SIDE
BUT WHILE WE'RE HERE AND...
16 TAROT PATH: THE HEIROPHANT. ZODIAC SIGN: TAURUS. COLOR: DEEP INDIGO. JEWEL: TOPAZ. PLANT: MALLOW. PERFUME: STORAX. ANIMAL: BULL.
LET'S CELEBRATE.
Einstein's Spacetime is a timeless four-dimensional solid, containing every instant simultaneously, forever, including our lives. DEATH, therefore, is a perspective illusion of the third dimension. Don't worry
A funeral CELEBRATION, or WAKE, dominates James Joyce's FINNEGANS WAKE, in which all human experience is distilled into one timeless day. Cheers!
ALAN MOORE WRITER
JH WILLIAMS III ARTIST-DESIGNER
TODD KLEIN LETTERER-DESIGNER
SCOTT DUNBIER EDITOR
KRISTY QUINN ASST. EDITOR

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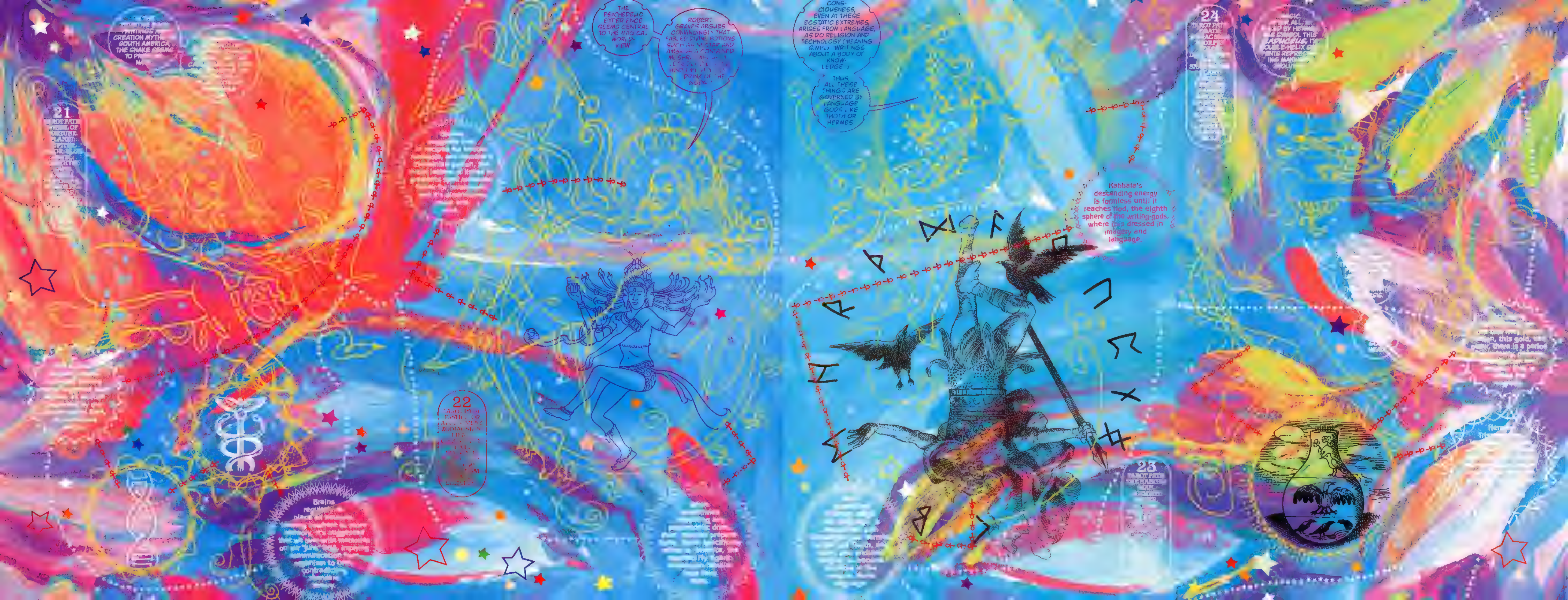
TION AR OUT OF ITSELF BLO FROM HOD MERCURIAL LANGUAGE.
IMAGINATION...TUMBLING SPINNING...IS THE LIGHT THAT GUIDES HUMANITY INTO ITS FUTURE.
THE HEAVEN-STOLEN LIGHT PROMETHEUS GAVE MANKIND. A BRIGHT FORBIDDEN KNOWLEDGE, SNAKE-GRANTED IN EDEN.
NARCISSUS PERFUME: ANIMAL: VIRGIN,
SERPENTS LUCIFER MEANS "LIGHT BRINGER."
letters number-values. word for the Biblical adds up to 358, meaning "messiah," another light-bringer.
AUSTIN OSMAN SPARE
THESE MARKS ON PAPER THAT ARE READ
batteries, little space, and, with only
with another shimmering neural net.


21
CREATION MYTH SOUTH AMERICA, THE SNAKE
Brains
22
THE PSYCHEDELIC EXPERIENCE SEEMS CENTRAL TO THE MAGICAL WORLD-VIEW
ROBERT GRAVES ARGUES CONVINCINGLY THAT FABLED DIVINE POTIONS SUCH AS NECTAR AND AMBROSIA CONTAINED MUSHR [illegible] DRINK OF THE GODS.
CONSCIOUSNESS, EVEN AT THESE ECSTATIC EXTREMES, ARISES FROM LANGUAGE, AS DO RELIGION AND TECHNOLOGY (MEANING SIMPLY 'WRITINGS ABOUT A BODY OF KNOWLEDGE').
THUS, ALL THESE THINGS ARE GOVERNED BY LANGUAGE GODS LIKE THOTH OR HERMES
Kabbala's descending energy is formless until it reaches Hod, the eighth sphere of the writing-gods, where it is dressed in imagery and language.
23
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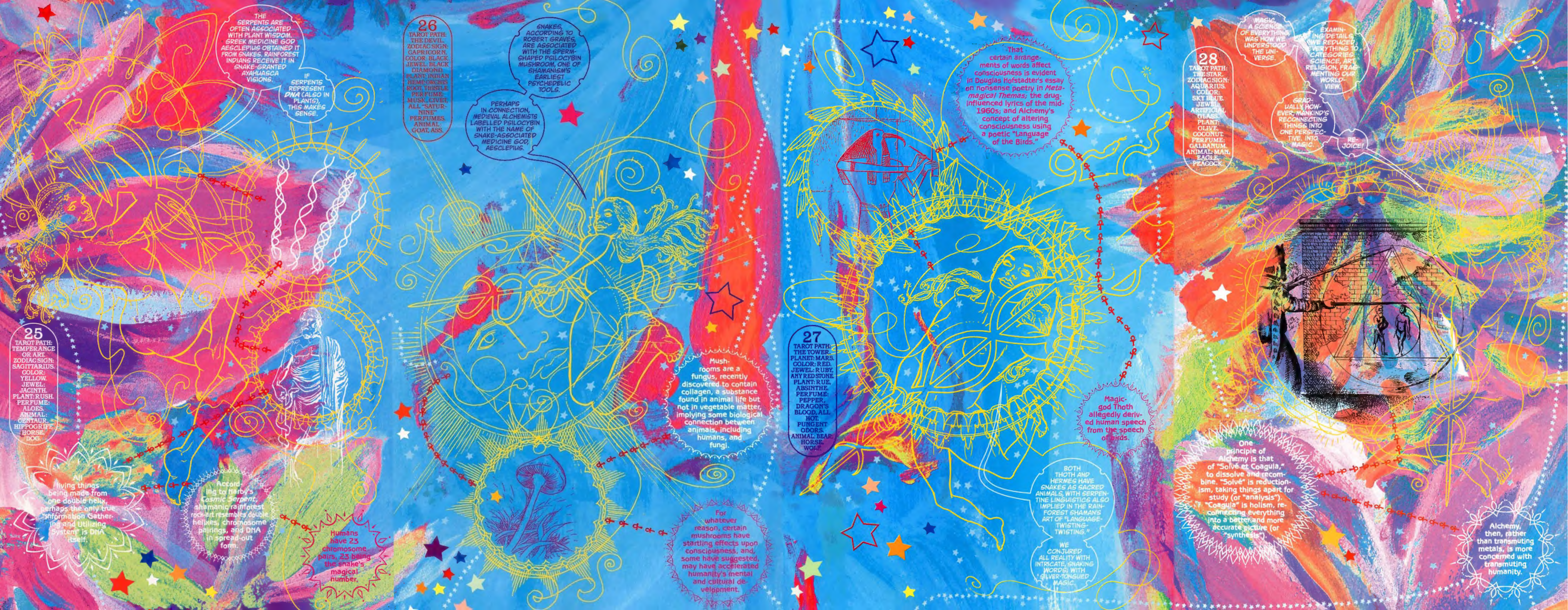
this gold, there is a perio


THE SERPENTS ARE OFTEN ASSOCIATED WITH PLANT WISDOM. GREEK MEDICINE GOD AESCLEPIUS OBTAINED IT FROM SNAKES. RAINFOREST INDIANS RECEIVE IT IN SNAKE-GRANTED AYAHUASCA VISIONS.
IF SERPENTS REPRESENT *DNA* (ALSO IN PLANTS), THIS MAKES SENSE.
26 TAROT PATH: THE DEVIL. ZODIAC SIGN: CAPRICORN. COLOR: BLACK. JEWEL: BLACK DIAMOND. PLANT: INDIAN HEMP, ORCHIS ROOT, THISTLE. PERFUME: MUSK, CIVET, ALL "SATURNINE" PERFUMES. ANIMAL: GOAT, ASS.
SNAKES, ACCORDING TO ROBERT GRAVES, ARE ASSOCIATED WITH THE SPERM-SHAPED PSILOCYBIN MUSHROOM, ONE OF SHAMANISM'S EARLIEST PSYCHEDELIC TOOLS.
PERHAPS IN CONNECTION, MEDIEVAL ALCHEMISTS LABELLED PSILOCYBIN WITH THE NAME OF SNAKE-ASSOCIATED MEDICINE GOD, AESCLEPIUS.
25 TAROT PATH: TEMPERANCE OR ART. ZODIAC SIGN: SAGITTARIUS. COLOR: YELLOW. JEWEL: JACINTH. PLANT: RUSH. PERFUME: ALOES. ANIMAL: CENTAUR, HIPPOGRIFF, HORSE, DOG.
All living things being made from one double helix, perhaps the only true "Information Gathering and Utilizing System" is DNA itself.
According to Narby's *Cosmic Serpent*, shamanic rainforest rock-art resembles double helixes, chromosome pairings, and DNA in spread-out form.
Humans have 23 chromosome pairs, 23 being the snake's magical number.
Mushrooms are a fungus, recently discovered to contain collagen, a substance found in animal life but not in vegetable matter, implying some biological connection between animals, including humans, and fungi.
For whatever reason, certain mushrooms have startling effects upon consciousness, and, some have suggested, may have accelerated humanity's mental and cultural development.
27 TAROT PATH: THE TOWER. PLANET: MARS. COLOR: RED. JEWEL: RUBY, ANY RED STONE. PLANT: RUE, ABSINTHE. PERFUME: PEPPER, DRAGON'S BLOOD, ALL HOT, PUNGENT ODORS. ANIMAL: BEAR, HORSE, WOLF.
That certain arrangements of words affect consciousness is evident in Douglas Hofstadter's essay on nonsense poetry in *Metamagical Themas;* the drug-influenced lyrics of the mid-1960s; and Alchemy's concept of altering consciousness using a poetic "Language of the Birds."
Magic-god Thoth allegedly derived human speech from the speech of birds.
BOTH THOTH AND HERMES HAVE SNAKES AS SACRED ANIMALS, WITH SERPENTINE LINGUISTICS ALSO IMPLIED IN THE RAINFOREST SHAMAN'S ART OF "LANGUAGE-TWISTING-TWISTING."
WE CONJURED ALL REALITY WITH INTRICATE, SNAKING WORDS; WITH SILVER-TONGUED MAGIC.
28 TAROT PATH: THE STAR. ZODIAC SIGN: AQUARIUS. COLOR: SKY BLUE. JEWEL: ARTIFICIAL GLASS. PLANT: OLIVE, COCONUT. PERFUME: GALBANUM. ANIMAL: MAN, EAGLE, PEACOCK.
MAGIC, A SCIENCE OF EVERYTHING, WAS HOW WE UNDERSTOOD THE UNIVERSE.
EXAMINING DETAILS, WE REDUCED EVERYTHING TO CATEGORIES: SCIENCE, ART, RELIGION, FRAGMENTING OUR WORLDVIEW.
GRADUALLY, HOWEVER, MANKIND'S RECONNECTING THINGS INTO ONE PERSPECTIVE. INTO MAGIC.
REJOICE!
One principle of Alchemy is that of "Solvé et Coagula," to dissolve and recombine. "Solvé" is reductionism, taking things apart for study (or "analysis"). "Coagula" is holism, reconnecting everything into a better and more accurate picture (or "synthesis").
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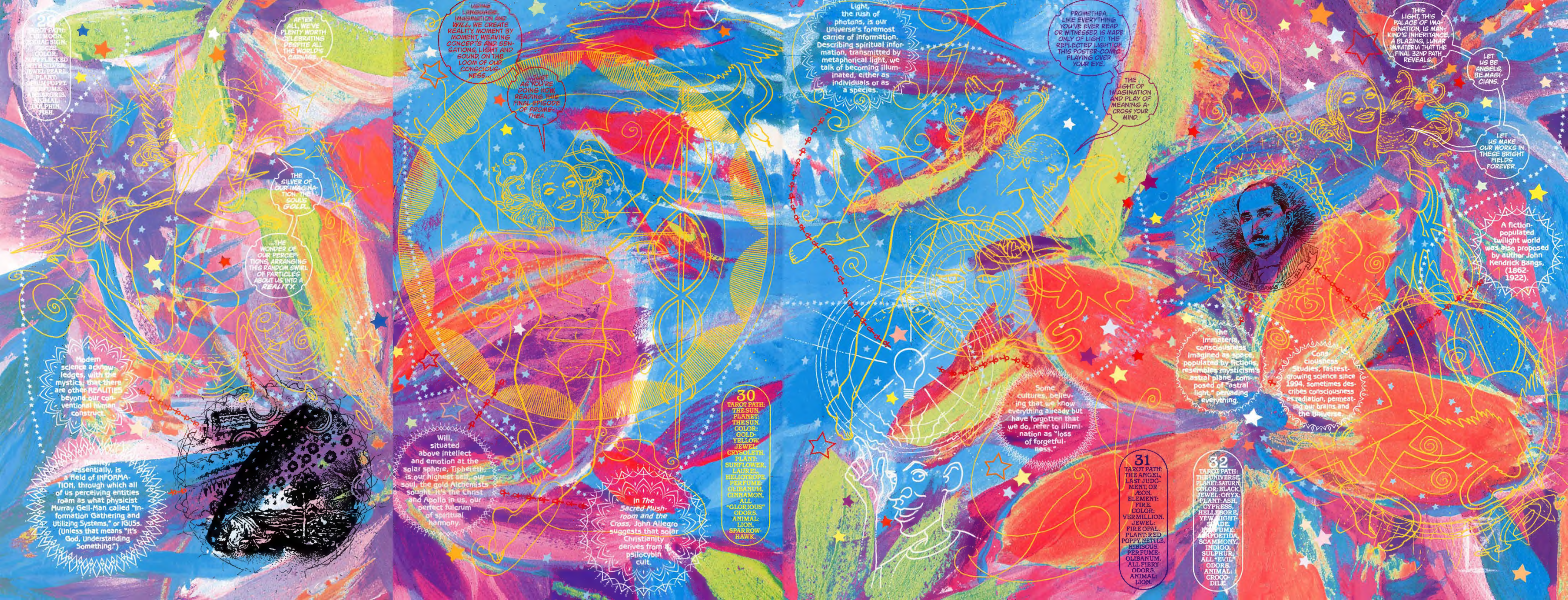
29
TAROT PATH: THE MOON. ZODIAC SIGN: PISCES. COLOR: BUFF FLECKED WITH SILVER. JEWEL: PEARL. PLANT: OPIUM POPPY. PERFUME: AMBERGRIS. ANIMAL: DOLPHIN. FISH.
AFTER ALL, WE'VE PLENTY WORTH CELEBRATING DESPITE ALL THE WORLD'S CARNAGE.
THE SILVER OF OUR IMAGINATION: THE SOUL'S GOLD...
...THE WONDER OF OUR PERCEPTIONS, ARRANGING THIS RANDOM SWIRL OF PARTICLES ABOUT US INTO A REALITY.
Modern science acknowledges, with the mystics, that there are other REALITIES beyond our conventional human construct.
Reality, essentially, is a field of INFORMATION, through which all of us perceiving entities roam as what physicist Murray Gell-Man called "Information Gathering and Utilizing Systems," or IGUSs. (Unless that means "It's God, Understanding Something.")
USING LANGUAGE, IMAGINATION AND WILL, WE CREATE REALITY, MOMENT BY MOMENT, WEAVING CONCEPTS AND SENSATIONS, LIGHT AND SOUND, ON THE LOOM OF OUR CONSCIOUSNESS...
...JUST AS YOU'RE DOING NOW, READING THIS FINAL EPISODE OF PROMETHEA.
Will, situated above intellect and emotion at the solar sphere, Tiphereth, is our highest self, our soul, the gold Alchemists sought. It's the Christ and Apollo in us, our perfect fulcrum of spiritual harmony.
In The Sacred Mushroom and the Cross, John Allegro suggests that solar Christianity derives from a psilocybin cult.
30
TAROT PATH: THE SUN. PLANET: THE SUN. COLOR: GOLD-YELLOW. JEWEL: CRYSOLETH. PLANT: SUNFLOWER, LAUREL, HELIOTROPE. PERFUME: OLIBANUM, CINNAMON, ALL "GLORIOUS" ODORS. ANIMAL: LION, SPARROW-HAWK.
Light, the rush of photons, is our Universe's foremost carrier of information. Describing spiritual information, transmitted by metaphorical light, we talk of becoming illuminated, either as individuals or as a species.
PROMETHEA, LIKE EVERYTHING YOU'VE EVER READ OR WITNESSED, IS MADE ONLY OF LIGHT: THE REFLECTED LIGHT OF THIS POSTER-COMIC PLAYING OVER YOUR EYE.
THE LIGHT OF IMAGINATION AND PLAY OF MEANING ACROSS YOUR MIND.
Some cultures, believing that we know everything already but have forgotten that we do, refer to illumination as "loss of forgetfulness."
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TAROT PATH: THE ANGEL, LAST JUDGMENT, OR ÆON. ELEMENT: FIRE. COLOR: VERMILLION. JEWEL: FIRE OPAL. PLANT: RED POPPY, NETTLE, HIBISCUS. PERFUME: OLIBANUM, ALL FIERY ODORS. ANIMAL: LION.
THIS LIGHT, THIS PALACE OF IMAGINATION, IS MANKIND'S INHERITANCE, A BLAZING, LUNAR IMMATERIA THAT THE FINAL 32ND PATH REVEALS.
LET US BE ANGELS, BE MAGICIANS.
LET US MAKE OUR WORKS IN THESE BRIGHT FIELDS FOREVER.
JOHN KENDRICK BANGS 1862-1922
A fiction-populated twilight world was also proposed by author John Kendrick Bangs, (1862-1922).
The Immateria, consciousness imagined as space, populated by fictions, resembles mysticism's astral plane, composed of "astral light," pervading everything.
Consciousness Studies, fastest-growing science since 1994, sometimes describes consciousness as radiation, permeating our brains and the Universe.
32
TAROT PATH: THE UNIVERSE. PLANET: SATURN. COLOR: BLACK. JEWEL: ONYX. PLANT: ASH, CYPRESS, HELLEBORE, YEW, NIGHTSHADE. PERFUME: ASAFOETIDA, SCAMMONY, INDIGO, SULPHUR, ALL "EVIL" ODORS. ANIMAL: CROCODILE.

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